The Graduate School

Philosophy
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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Graduate Faculty:

Alexander, Thomas, Professor, Ph.D., Emory University, 1984; 1985. American philosophy, classical philosophy, aesthetics, Dewey.


Auxier, Randall E., Professor, Ph.D., Emory University, 1992; 2000. American philosophy, process philosophy, philosophy of religion, history of philosophy ethics.

Beardsworth, Sara, Professor, Ph.D., University of Warwick, 1994; 2004. Nineteenth and twentieth century European philosophy, Kristeva.


Clarke, David S., Jr., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Emory University, 1964; 1966.

Eames, Elizabeth R., Professor, Emerita, Ph.D., Bryn Mawr College, 1951; 1963.


Gillan, Garth J., Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., Duquesne University, 1966; 1969.

Hahn, Robert, Professor, Ph.D., Yale University, 1976; 1982. Greek philosophy, philosophy and history of science, Kant.


Kelly, Matthew J., Associate Professor, Emeritus, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 1963; 1966.

Manfredi, Pat A., Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 1983; 1994. Philosophy of mind, American Realism,

Schedler, George, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, 1973; J.D., Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 1987; 1973. Philosophy of law, ethics, social philosophy.


Tyman, Stephen, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Toronto, 1980; 1980. 18th and 19th century European philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism.


The Department of Philosophy offers a wide range of advanced courses in the major areas within the field leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Students are offered a diversified curriculum not dominated by one school of thought or method of approach. The broad range of specializations represented by the faculty exposes students to a variety of aspects of philosophy and at the same time permits them to concentrate on their own particular area of interest. Graduate-level courses in such allied fields as the natural and social sciences, the arts, linguistics, law, and women’s studies offer supplements to the philosophy curriculum.

Graduate courses in philosophy may be used as a minor in programs leading to the Master of Arts or Master of Science in Education degrees. Students who do not plan to continue work in philosophy beyond the master’s degree level are encouraged to elect a graduate minor or to combine philosophy with another subject in a 40-hour double major.

All graduate students in philosophy are expected to have some supervised experience in teaching basic work in the field, either through regular teaching assistantships or through special assignments. Opportunities for intern experience at area junior or community colleges are made available.

Admission

Admission to the philosophy graduate program requires the following:

1. An application form to be sent to the department. A non-refundable application fee of $65 must be submitted with the application. This fee must be paid with a credit card.

2. Official transcripts of each school attended to be sent to the department.

3. A sample of written work, e.g., a term paper written for an undergraduate or graduate philosophy class, to be sent to the department’s director of graduate studies.

4. Four letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the student’s work should be requested by the applicant to be sent to the department’s director of graduate studies.

5. Graduate Record Examination verbal and quantitative scores are requested but not required to be submitted to the department. They are required for those applying for fellowships. TOEFL scores of at least 550 (paper score) or 220 (computer score) are required for all foreign students. These scores should be sent directly to the department. Scores for the Test of Spoken English are strongly recommended for foreign students applying for teaching assistantships.

The department expects an applicant for admission to its graduate program to have had at least 15 semester hours in philosophy or closely related theoretical subjects, including at least one semester in ethics, one in logic, and a year in the history of philosophy. The department may waive a portion of this requirement in favor of maturity and of quality of breadth of academic experience. Applicants will be required to make up serious background deficiencies by taking appropriate undergraduate philosophy courses without credit.

Application for financial assistance is made by filling out a financial assistance form. Applicants for Graduate School and Morris Fellowships should send these applications to the department by February 1 of the academic year preceding that for which application is made. Applications for departmental graduate assistantships should be sent to the department by April 1 of that year.
Entry into the Ph.D. Program. There are two routes by which a student may enter the doctoral program. The standard one is by completion of an M.A. degree in philosophy at an accredited institution. There is also one alternative available in special circumstances.

**Accelerated Entry.** After at least one semester in residence, a student enrolled in the M.A. program may petition the department’s faculty for accelerated entry into the Ph.D. program. Such entry is permitted only in special circumstances where a student has completed the equivalent of an M.A. degree at another institution or has exhibited some other special qualifications (e.g. papers and publications) for the research or creative activities of doctoral-level study.

**Master of Arts Degree**

The department’s M.A. degree program is designed both for students wishing to continue on for a Ph.D. degree and those who plan to receive a terminal master’s degree. For the latter students a minor concentration of up to nine semester hours outside philosophy is permitted, subject to approval by the director of graduate studies. In order to receive the M.A. degree the student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Complete 30 semester hours of course work in philosophy or allied fields, six of which may be credited toward preparation of a thesis.

2. Fulfillment of a formal logic requirement demonstrated in one of the four following ways:
   a. by having earned a grade of B or better in an undergraduate course covering sentential calculus and first order predicate logic
   b. by having earned a grade of B or better in Philosophy 105 as an undergraduate at SIU
   c. by passing, with a grade of B or better during one’s first year of residence, an examination covering sentential calculus and first order predicate logic
   d. by passing with a grade of B or better Philosophy 420 during one’s first year of residence

3. Fulfillment of a language or research tool requirement. This may be accomplished by passing, with a grade of B or better, one of the following:
   a. A 488 language course. (Note: these courses are offered through the Department of Foreign and Classical Languages at various times)
   b. An examination offered through the Department of Philosophy.
   c. A Directed Readings course offered either by the Department of Philosophy (PHIL 591) or (subject to approval by the Graduate Director) another academic unit, in which a philosophic text is translated and a final piece of research is produced.
   d. The student may appeal to the Director of Graduate Studies:
      1. To produce a translation of a previously untranslated text or article under professional guidance, whether within or outside the Philosophy Department.

2. For special dispensation, having already demonstrated sufficient competence in a language or research tool.

None of these options for fulfilling the language/research tool requirement count toward satisfying the 30 hour requirement, except the Directed Readings (PHIL 591).

4. A written comprehensive examination of up to five hours in length, dealing with the formulations and solutions of the persistent problems of philosophy as treated by major thinkers, from Thales to the end of the 19th Century. Normally, this examination should be taken no later than at the beginning of one’s third semester of residence. Students who have incompletes older than one month may not sit for this exam. (Students are expected to make up incomplete grades within one month of completion of the course in which the incomplete was awarded.) The Graduate Committee may address special considerations. Students preparing for the exam should consult the Department’s Study Guide, available in the Graduate Secretary’s Office. The History Comprehensive exam will be offered once each year in the Fall Semester. The Comprehensive examination papers will be read by five members of the Department’s faculty. These readers will submit to the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies a ‘high pass,’ ‘pass,’ ‘low pass,’ ‘terminal pass,’ or ‘fail’ recommendation. Students failing the Fall exam may attempt to retake the examination in the Spring, through a request to the Graduate Director. No student may sit for a History Comprehensive examination more than two times without the written consent of the Graduate Committee. The Graduate Committee will make such decisions on a case-by-case basis. A terminal pass allows the candidate to receive the Masters Degree as the final degree sought in the Department.

5. Fulfillment of a research writing requirement by either of the following. In general, this requirement should be met no later than the end of one’s second year of residence.
   a. Presentation of an acceptable thesis, 50-75 pages in text length, to be written under the direction of a member of the Department. Six thesis hours is the maximum number of hours that can count for credit for the Master’s degree (paragraph A, above). A preliminary draft stating the thesis title, describing the problem to be investigated, the method to be used, the outline of the study, and a preliminary bibliography must be prepared in advance for the thesis advisor. An instruction booklet should be secured from the Graduate School or the Department Graduate Secretary, which specifies the proper form for these documents.

   b. In the event of a terminal MA, the student may present three edited research papers, written in connection with graduate courses or seminars under three different individuals (whose prior approval must be obtained), to a special committee of three members, only one of whom may be an individual under whom the papers were originally written.

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree**

The Ph.D. degree in philosophy is designed to prepare students for college teaching and for research in their field of study. In order to receive the Ph.D. degree the student must fulfill the
following requirements:

1. Completion of 30 semester hours of work beyond the M.A. level including:
   Students, as part of their required coursework in the Ph.D. program, must take one course in each of the following areas as Course Distribution Requirements: Asian Philosophy, Ancient/Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, 19th Century Philosophy, 20th Century Philosophy. The 19th and 20th Century Philosophy requirements must include one course taken in the American tradition and one course in the Continental Tradition.

2. Demonstration of competence in formal logic in one of the following ways:
   a. By having met the logic requirement for the Master’s degree.
   b. By having earned a grade of B or better in an undergraduate course covering sentential calculus and first order predicate logic.
   c. By having earned a grade of B or better in Philosophy 105 as an undergraduate at SIU.
   d. By passing with a grade of B or better, during one’s first year of residence, an examination covering sentential calculus and first order predicate logic.
   e. By passing with a grade of B or better, Philosophy 420 during one’s first year of residence.

3. Incoming doctoral students from other universities will be required to take the history comprehensive examination on the history of philosophy. This must be completed by the end of the first year of residence. Candidates who have already passed a comprehensive examination on the history of philosophy, or who have taken a range of courses in the history of philosophy may appeal to the Graduate Director to be waived from taking this examination.

4. Each doctoral candidate should take a general preliminary examination after (s)he has accumulated between 24 to 30 hours of credit beyond the Masters degree level and before (s)he begins work on the dissertation. (Students who have incompletes older than one month may not sit for this examinations: Students are expected to make up incomplete grades within one month of completion of the course in which the incomplete was awarded. The Graduate Committee may address special considerations.) Candidates should see the Graduate Secretary for a copy of the Department’s Study Guide, which lists recommended readings and study questions. The examination will cover the following areas:
   1. Ancient Philosophy
   2. Medieval Philosophy
   3. Modern Philosophy
   4. Nineteenth Century Philosophy
   5. Early Twentieth Century Philosophy
   This examination will consist of five sections, and students will write responses to five questions. Students failing the exam may sign up to sit for a retake in the Spring Semester. The preliminary examination papers will be read by members of the Department’s faculty who will submit to the Department’s Director of Graduate Studies a ‘high pass,’ ‘pass,’ ‘low pass,’ or ‘fail’ recommendation. Any student whose exam receives a simple majority of failing recommendations will have failed the exam, and any students whose exam receives simple majority of high passes or passes or of a combination will be deemed to have passed the exam. No student may sit for the preliminary examination more than two times without the written consent of the Graduate Committee. The Graduate Committee will make such decisions on a case-by-case basis.

During the semester after general preliminary examination has been passed, the students will take a special area/special thinker examination, to be designed by their advisor. When the student has fulfilled the requirements of the special area/special thinker examination to the advisor’s satisfaction, the advisor will notify the Graduate Director that the student has fulfilled this requirement. The student will then have been deemed to pass the Preliminary Examinations (general and special area/special thinker) and may be admitted to candidacy.

5. Fulfillment of a language/research tool requirement in one of the following ways:
   a. As indicated in the M.A. level requirements (paragraph I.C), for a second language in addition to that studied for the Master’s degree. The level of proficiency required is the same as the M.A. level and fulfilling the M.A. requirement counts as one of the two required.
   b. By showing greater proficiency in the same language that was used to meet the same requirements for the Master’s degree.
   c. By demonstrating a reading knowledge of one language as indicated in the M.A. level requirements and by completing, satisfactorily, at least two courses in a research related area, such as mathematics, history, archival work, editing, and so on, pursued outside the Department at the graduate level. This option must be approved by the Graduate Director prior to being undertaken.

Fulfilling these requirements does not count toward the completion of 30 semester hours of work beyond the M.A. level, unless the work is done as Directed Readings (PHIL 591).

6. Admission to Candidacy – After 30 hours of course work have been completed, the logic and the language requirements have been fulfilled and the preliminary examinations passed, the Director of Graduate Studies (in the person of the Graduate Secretary) must file an Admit to Candidacy form with the Graduate School. This form is to be filed at least six months before the expected date of graduation. The student is responsible for seeing whether this form has, in fact, been filed. The student must have obtained the agreement of a faculty member to serve as dissertation director.

7. Dissertation
   a. The dissertation director is responsible for selecting a dissertation committee for the student. The committee shall consist of five graduate faculty members, at least one of whom shall be from an SIU graduate program outside the student’s academic unit. The
Department allows for the possibility of faculty from other institutions to serve on the student's committee in addition to the requisite number of SIU faculty. Once the dissertation director has been chosen and the committee formed, any subsequent changes to the dissertation directorship position must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. The appropriate change form must be sent to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval.

b. In preparation for the writing of the dissertation, the candidate must have a prospectus review. The Director of the dissertation is responsible, in consultation with the candidate, for determining what appropriate background reading is necessary for beginning the dissertation and for the initial formulation of the project. The candidate will proceed to generate the prospectus. A prospectus should be approximately 10 - 20 pages in length; it should also include a proposed outline for the dissertation and a working bibliography. The Director of the dissertation will appoint a committee (four professors, including one from outside the Department) that will convene for the review of the prospectus. The review will help the candidate in the final formulation of the project before proceeding with the writing of the dissertation. The committee members will fill out a comment sheet for the candidate.

c. While working on the dissertation, the student must register for the course numbered 600. The student is to devote at least one academic year of full-time work to complete the dissertation and will register for 24 semester hours of dissertation credit (Students may sign up for from 1 to 16 hours of PHIL 600 per semester). For example, the student wishing to complete the dissertation in one year may register for 12 hours of dissertation credit for each of two terms. Students who have registered for 24 semester hours of dissertation credit and have not completed the doctoral dissertation are subject to the continuing enrollment requirement course number 601. Students are required to complete 24 hours of Philosophy 600. The student may take only six of these 600-level hours prior to formal admission to candidacy, and only six of these hours will count towards the residency requirement.

d. Students who have completed all but the dissertation requirements, but who have previously enrolled for the minimum number of research, thesis, or dissertation credit hours required of the degree, must enroll every semester for at least one hour until all degree requirements have been completed (Summer sessions exempt). Whether in residence or not, students are required to enroll in Continuing Enrollment (PHIL 601 - 1 hour per semester) if not otherwise enrolled. Concurrent registration in any other course is not acceptable. See the Graduate Catalog for more specific details, under heading GENERAL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

e. The candidate will do the required research and write the dissertation. There is no given length for a dissertation, but 150 to 250 pages is the average length of a philosophy dissertation.

f. The candidate and the dissertation director should work together until the document is ready to receive critical input from the committee. When the dissertation director indicates that the dissertation is ready for defense, it shall be required of the dissertation director to submit to each committee member a copy of the dissertation for the members' examination. This must be delivered at least one month in advance of the scheduled defense. The committee must then decide whether or not the dissertation is acceptable for defense.

g. The candidate shall conduct an oral defense of the dissertation and related topics in the field before the dissertation committee. The oral defense is open to the public. Only the committee members vote or make recommendations concerning the acceptance of the dissertation and final examination. At the discretion of the dissertation director, guests may be permitted to ask questions of the candidate after the committee members have conducted the examination. A student will be recommended for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy only if the members of the committee judge both the dissertation and the performance at the final oral examination to be satisfactory. One dissenting vote is permitted.

Courses (PHIL)

PHIL 400-3 Philosophy of Mind. An investigation of the philosophic issues raised by several competing theories of mind, focusing on the fundamental debate between reductionistic accounts (e.g., central state materialism, identity theories of the physical and mental) and views which reject such proposed reductions. Traditional and contemporary theories will be examined. Designed for students in the life and social sciences with little or no background in philosophy as well as philosophy students.

PHIL 405-3 Democratic Theory. (Same as POLS 405) An examination of various aspects of democratic thought, including the liberal tradition and its impact upon the United States. Fulfills the CoLA Writing-Across-the-Curriculum (WAC) requirement. Prerequisite: POLS 114 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 415-3 Logic of Social Sciences. (Same as SOC 415) An examination of the theoretical structure and nature of the social sciences and their epistemological foundations. The relationship of social theory to social criticism; theory and praxis. Historical experience and social objectivity. Social theory as practical knowledge.

PHIL 420-3 Symbolic Logic. An introduction to first order logic with an emphasis on quantification. Topics include the semantics of the quantifiers, first-order validity, quantifier equivalences, functions, informal proofs, proofs of non-consequence, derivations using a Fitch natural deduction system, translations to and from English, soundness and completeness, the axiomatic method, first order set theory, and mathematical induction. Prerequisite: PHIL 320 or consent of the instructor.

PHIL 434-3 Media Ethics. (Same as JRNL 434) Explores the moral environment of the mass media and the ethical problems
that confront media practitioners. Models of ethical decision-making and moral philosophy are introduced to encourage students to think critically about the mass media and their roles in modern society.

PHIL 441-3 Philosophy of Politics. (Same as POLS 403) The theory of political and social foundations; the theory of the state, justice, and revolution. Classical and contemporary readings such as: Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Dewey, Adorno and others. Prerequisite: PHIL 340 or PHIL 102 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 445-3 Philosophy of Law. Study of contemporary philosophical essays on topics at the intersection of law and philosophy, such as abortion on demand, capital punishment, plea bargaining, campus speech codes, legalization of addictive drugs, and animal rights, and of what systematic philosophers, such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, and H.L.A. Hart, have written about the nature of a legal system and the appropriate realm of legal regulation.

PHIL 446A-Feminist Philosophy. (Same as WGS 456A) A general survey of feminist theory and philosophical perspectives.

PHIL 446B-Special Topics in Feminist Philosophy. (Same as WGS 456B) A special area in feminist philosophy explored in depth, such as Feminist Ethics, Feminist Philosophy of Science, etc.

PHIL 446C-3 Women Philosophers. (Same as WGS 456C) Explores the work of one or more specific women philosophers, for example Hannah Arendt, Simone DeBeauvoir, etc.

PHIL 450-3 American Transcendentalism. This course will study the rise of Transcendentalism as a philosophical movement in early Nineteenth Century New England. Focus will be on Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau with possible attention to Margaret Fuller and other figures like Hedge, Parker and Brownson.

PHIL 451-3 History of African American Philosophy. (Same as AFR 499A) A survey of major thinkers and themes in the history of African American Philosophy from colonial times to the 20th century. Prerequisite: at least one previous course in either Philosophy or Africana Studies with a grade of C or better.

PHIL 455-3 Philosophy of Race. (Same as AFR 499B) A survey and critical examination of a range of theories on the nature and meaning of “race,” the intersection of race with class and gender, and the promotion of racial progress. Such theories include racial realism and idealism, racial biology, cultural race theory, social constructivist theory, integrationism, separatism, racial eliminativism, cosmopolitanism, and especially critical race theory. Prerequisite: at least one previous course in Philosophy or Africana Studies with a minimum grade of C.

PHIL 459-1 to 6 Topics in Africana Philosophy. (Same as AFR 499C) A seminar on varying topics, themes, and figures in African, African American, and/or Caribbean Philosophy, e.g., “W.E.B. Du Bois and His Contemporaries,” “Pan-Africanism,” “Philosophies of Liberation,” “Black Feminism,” “Contemporary African Philosophy,” “Philosophies of the Caribbean.” Prerequisite: At least one previous course in Philosophy or Africana Studies with a minimum grade of C.

PHIL 460-3 Philosophy of Art. We will examine several important theories that define art by focusing in on only one aspect, for example, imitation, expression, form, institutional setting, or even indefinability. What role does imagination play in each of these accounts, and does this tell us something important about how people experience their world?

PHIL 468A-3 Kant-Theoretical Philosophy. PHIL 468B-3 Kant-Practical Philosophy. PHIL 468C-3 Kant-Aesthetics, Teleology and Religion.

PHIL 469-3 Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy to Augustine. (Same as CLAS 469) The career of philosophy during the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Medieval period, especially as a means of personal salvation, exploring such figures and movements as: Epicurus, Stoicism, the Middle Academy, Skepticism, Gnosticism, Plotinus, Early Christianity, Augustine, and Boethius. Prerequisite: PHIL 304 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 470A-3 Greek Philosophy-Plato. (Same as CLAS 470A) Survey of Plato’s dialogues mostly selected from those of the middle period (Meno, Phaedo, Symposium, Republic, Phaedrus), perhaps along with some from the early period (especially Protagoras) and late period (Sophist, Timaeus).

PHIL 470B-3 Greek Philosophy-Aristotle. (Same as CLAS 470B) A general survey of the Aristotelian philosophy including the theory of nature, metaphysics, ethics, and political philosophy. Readings will consist of selections from the corpus.

PHIL 471A-3 History of Medieval Philosophy. An examination of some of the most important figures and themes in medieval philosophical thought. Medieval debates in the area of metaphysics, natural philosophy, epistemology, ethics and politics will be explored in reading the works of such figures as Augustine, Boethius, Abelard Avicenna, Averroes, Maimonides, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, Ockham and Nicholas of Cusa. Prerequisite: PHIL 304 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 471B-3 The Medieval Thinker. An examination of the thought of one of the central and most influential figures of the medieval world. Possible subjects of the course are Augustine of Hippo, Al-Ghazali, Moses Maimonides, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus, Dante Alighieri or William Ockham. Prerequisite: PHIL 304 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 472-3 The Rationalists. Study of the philosophy of one or more of Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Malebranche, Wolff. Prerequisite: PHIL 305A or B or consent of instructor.

PHIL 473A-3 The Empiricists-Locke. Study of the principles of British empiricism as represented by Locke. May also include study of Berkeley. Prerequisite: PHIL 305 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 473B-3 The Empiricists-Hume. Study of the principles of British empiricism as represented by Hume. May also include study of Berkeley. Prerequisite: PHIL 305 or consent of instructor.

PHIL 474-3 Aristotle’s Ethics. This course will focus on reading Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics. Topics will include: the idea of a well-lived life (happiness), the relation of reason and desire, character formation, deliberative and moral reasoning, the types of human excellence, friendship and the role of philosophy in a well-lived life. Readings may include: Greek drama (e.g., Abitigone, Medea), Aristotle’s Politics, and contemporary writers in “virtue ethics.” Prerequisite: PHIL 304 with a grade of B or better.
PHIL 475-3 Topics in Asian Philosophy. Extended examination of one or two major texts, figures or philosophical schools in Asian philosophy. Topics vary; students are advised to consult with the instructor.

PHIL 477-3 Indian Philosophy. An examination of several major traditions and texts of Indian philosophy, such as Vedanta, Nyaya, the Upanishads, the Bhagava Gita, and contemporary political philosophy, with an emphasis on their social and historical contexts.

PHIL 478-3 Buddhist Philosophy. An examination of several major philosophical traditions or figures in Buddhism, such as Madhyamika, Yogacara, Zen, Mind-Only, and the Kyoto school, emphasis on their social and historical contexts.

PHIL 479-3 Chinese Philosophy. An examination of several major traditions of Chinese philosophy, such as Confucianism, Taoism, Mohism and Maoism, Neoconfucianism, with an emphasis on their social and historical contexts.

PHIL 480-3 History of Analytic Philosophy. An introduction to the works of several major 20th Century philosophers in the analytic tradition, including several of the following: Frege, Russell, Moore, Wittgenstein (early and later), members of the Vienna Circle, Ayer, Ryle, Quine, Putnam, Davidson. Includes discussion of challenges to the tradition that have developed within it.

PHIL 482-3 Recent European Philosophy. Philosophical trends in Europe from the end of the 19th Century to the present. Phenomenology, existentialism, the new Marxism, structuralism, and other developments. Language, history, culture and politics.

PHIL 485-3 The Presocratics. The course will survey the Presocratic movement from the Milesians, Heraclitus and the Pythagoreans to the Eleatics, Empedocles, Anaxagoras and Democritus. Topics will include: the idea of nature, origin/s, source/principle (arche), the mathematical and nature, Being, pluralism and monism, the atomic theory. Some attention may be paid to the Sophists and the Epicureans. Prerequisite: PHIL 304 with a minimum grade of B.

PHIL 486-3 Early American Philosophy. From the Colonial Era to the Eve of World War I. This course will trace the development of European philosophy to the New World and watch its unique progress of development. Movements such as Puritanism, the theory of the American Revolution, the philosophical basis of the Constitution, transcendentalism, idealism, Darwinism and pragmatism and such figures as: Jonathan Edwards, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Josiah Royce, Charles Sanders Peirce, and William James.


PHIL 490-1 to 8 Special Problems. Hours and credits to be arranged. Courses for qualified students who need to pursue certain topics further than regularly titled courses permit. Special topics announced from time to time. Students are invited to suggest topics. Special approval needed from the department.

PHIL 500-3 Metaphysics. Seminar focusing on readings taken from major classical to contemporary writings in the subject of metaphysics (e.g., Aristotle’s Metaphysics, Descartes’ Principles, Whitehead’s Process and Reality, etc.) or on special movements or on problems in the subject (e.g., substance, causation, reductionism, etc.).

PHIL 501-3 Philosophy of Religion. Analysis of a problem in philosophical theology or the phenomenology of religion or of the work of a particular thinker.

PHIL 530-3 Theory of Knowledge. Seminar focusing on readings taken from major classical to contemporary writings in the theory of knowledge (e.g., Plato, Theaetet; Aristotle, De Anima; Locke, Essay Concerning Human Understanding; Quine, Ontological Relativity; Rorty, The Mirror of Nature, etc.) or on movements or on problems in the subject (the object of knowledge, justification, method, etc.).

PHIL 542-3 Political and Legal Philosophy. Relations of law, morality, and politics, and consideration of problems and issues in philosophy of law.

PHIL 545-3 Ethics. An examination of the fundamental assumptions underlying twentieth century British and American moral theory. Special attention is given to recent attempts to develop a psychologically realistic moral philosophy that avoids both moral absolutism and extreme forms of relativism.

PHIL 551-1 Introduction to Teaching and the Profession. Introduction to the methodology and ethics of teaching philosophy; supervision of teaching assistants. Restricted to philosophy graduate students on assistantship contract.

PHIL 552-1 Teaching Practicum. Ongoing supervision of teaching assistants and discussion of pedagogical, ethical and professional issues. Prerequisite: PHIL 551.

PHIL 553-1 Supervision of Teaching for Graduate Assistants. Instruction in the methods of teaching philosophy and direct supervision of course teaching. Prerequisite: PHIL 551.

PHIL 558-3 Phenomenology Research Group. The Phenomenology Research Group is a forum for doing phenomenology. Each year we focus on a particular theme. Beginning with first-person perspectives, we examine how something becomes meaningful for us in experience, and we inquire after cross-cultural structures of those experiences. Since the touchstone for such reflection is experience, the orientation of scholarship is problem-based and contextual. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Grades.

PHIL 560-3 Aesthetics. Selected topics or writings.

PHIL 562-3 Philosophy of Human Communication. (See CMST 562)

PHIL 563-3 Philosophy of Nietzsche. A reading of Nietzsche’s works and critical discussion of his major themes in light of their historical and contemporary reception.

PHIL 564-3 Frankfurt School Critical Theory. An examination of the conceptual foundations and historico-philosophical theories of the Institute for Social Research School, known as critical theory, covering one or more of the major first- and second-generation thinkers: Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas.

PHIL 565-3 Continental Feminist Philosophy. (Same as WGS 565) An examination of major figures and problems in continental feminism, focusing on metaphysical, ethical, political, and aesthetic theories in the works of Beauvoir, Kristeva, Iragaray, Butler, and Kofman.
PHIL 566-3 Psychoanalysis. An examination of psychoanalytic theory in the context of continental philosophy, studying the foundation of psychoanalysis and major developments since Freud, including French psychoanalytic theory, the British School, and developments in American psychoanalysis.

PHIL 570-3 American Idealism. One or more American idealists. Recent seminars have been devoted to the thought of Brand Blanshard and Peter A. Bertocci.

PHIL 573A-3 American Realism-New Realism. An examination of selected works of representatives in the realist tradition of American philosophy.

PHIL 573B-American Realism-Critical Realism. An examination of selected works of representatives in the realist tradition of American philosophy.

PHIL 573C-3 American Realism-Scientific Realism. An examination of selected works of representatives in the realist tradition of American philosophy.

PHIL 573D-3 American Realism-Post Realism. An examination of selected works of representatives in the realist tradition of American philosophy.

PHIL 577A-3 Classical American Philosophy-Peirce. A focused study of various aspects of Peirce’s philosophy such as his pragmatism and semiotics.

PHIL 577B-3 Classical American Philosophy-James. A critical examination of James’ pragmatism, radical empiricism and pluralism.

PHIL 577C-3 Classical American Philosophy-Dewey. An examination of such themes in Dewey’s philosophy as the influence of Darwin, nature and experience, aesthetics, technology and democracy.

PHIL 577D-3 Classical American Philosophy-Mead. A critical examination of Mead’s theories regarding the social self and social life.

PHIL 578-3 Husserl. A careful and systematic reading of Husserl’s major works or treatment of important themes throughout his writings, such as, the problem of evidence, perception and rationality, time-consciousness, phenomenology of association, or the lifeworld.

PHIL 579-3 Heidegger. This course features a close reading of Heidegger’s masterwork, BEING AND TIME, supplemented by selected later essay and secondary literature as suggested by the instructor.

PHIL 580-3 The Pre-Socratics. The emergence of Greek philosophy in the sixth century B.C., the Milesians, Heraclitus and the Pythagoreans; the Eleatic movement and Parmenides, and the critical systems of Empedocles, Anaxagoras, and atomism; concluding with a discussion of the Sophistic movement and Socrates. Epic, lyric and dramatic literature of the period may be examined as well as philosophical writings.

PHIL 581-3 Plato. Intensive reading of selected texts focusing on some aspect of Plato’s thought or on Platonism as a movement.

PHIL 582-3 Aristotle. Intensive reading on several texts, analyzing selected portions of Aristotle’s thought.

PHIL 583-3 Merleau-Ponty. This course will focus on a major work by Merleau-Ponty (such as the Phenomenology of Perception), or will develop a major theme (perception, aesthetics, politics) in his thought by consulting several of his works.

PHIL 584-3 Levinas. This course will be devoted to a detailed and systematic study of one of Levinas’ major works, such as Totality and Infinity or Otherwise than Being, or to a survey of key elements of his thought contained in his many important essays.

PHIL 587-3 Kant.

PHIL 588-3 Hegel.

PHIL 589-3 Scheler. This course is devoted to a systematic reading of Scheler’s works that concern any one of the many dimensions of his thought, for example, the nature of “person”, ethics and value theory, the philosophy of religion, the sociology of knowledge, or politics.

PHIL 590-1 to 12 General Graduate Seminar. Selected topics or problems in philosophy. Repeatable for 12 hours per term, 30 hours toward degree.

PHIL 591-1 to 16 Readings in Philosophy. Supervised readings for qualified students. Prerequisite: Students must have written permission from the Graduate Director to register for more than six hours at each level.

PHIL 599-2 to 6 Thesis. Minimum of four hours to be counted towards a Master’s degree.

PHIL 600-3 to 32 (1 to 16 per semester) Dissertation. Repeatable for 16 hours per term, 30 hours toward degree.

PHIL 601-1 per semester Continuing Enrollment. For those graduate students who have not finished their degree programs and who are in the process of working on their dissertation, thesis, or research paper. The student must have completed a minimum of 24 hours of dissertation research, or the minimum thesis, or research hours before being eligible to register for this course. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted. Graded S/U or DEF only.

PHIL 699-1 Postdoctoral Research. Must be a Postdoctoral Fellow. Concurrent enrollment in any other course is not permitted.